

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-02 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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R 251626Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4540
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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 0228

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PDIP, ASEC, EAID, GJ, CI

SUBJ: GRENADIAN SECURITY MATTERS

REF: STATE 018133

1. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION ON ANY GROUP WITH THE NAME
GRENADA LIBERATION ARMY OR ANY GROUP WITH SIMILAR NAME. GRENADA
IS TENSE IN WAKE OF BELMAR SHOOTING, HOWEVER, A CONDITION ALMMOST
CERTAIN TO BE REFLECTED IN FOREIGN COMMUNITIES OF GRENADIANS OR
OTHER WEST INDIANS - IN NEW YORK, FOR EXAMPLE. THE GOG IS HOLDING
THREE SUSPECTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SHOOTING BUT HAVE MADE NO
OFFICIAL STATEMENTS.

2. EMBASSY HAS NO FIRST-HAND EVIDENCE THAT CHILE IS TRAINING MEMBERS OF

THE GRENADA POLICE OR DEFENSE FORCE ALTHOUGH MEMBERS OK THE
OPPOSITION IN GREANDA CLAIM SUCH TRAINING IS TAKING PLACE.
WHILE THE CHILEAN TRAINING SHIP ESMERALDA WAS VISITING GREANDA
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ON AUGUST 27-28, 1977 JOURNALISTS QUOTED A LT. COMMANDER GASTON
VIDAL AS SAYING THAT A PROPOSAL TO TRAIN GRENADIAN POLICEMEN IN
CHILE WAS BEING CONSIDERED. GRENADIAN JOURNALIST ALISTER HUGHES
HAS TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT TWO GRENADIAN POLICEMEN ARE
NOW BEING TRAINED IN CHILE AND THAT AS THE TWO FINISH THEIR
TRAINING, TWO MORE WILL BE SENT, ETC. HUGHES HAS ALSO
HEARD GOG SPOKESMEN REFER TO THE AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND

MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN GRENADA AND CHILE, BUT IN PUBLIC GOG OFFICIALS SPEAK OF THE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH CHILE AND DENY THAT ANY MILITARY OR POLICE TRAINING IS TAKING PLACE.

3. ACCORDING TO 77 SANTIAGO 1178, CHILEAN OFFICIAL IN FOREIGN MINISTRY GAVE EMBASSY OFFICER THERE A COPY OF WHAT WAS TERMED THE CHILEAN/GRENADIAN AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND SAID THERE WAS NO UNDERSTANDING ON MILITARY COOPERATION.

4. COMMENT: GRENADA'S PRIMIN ERIC GAIRY WANTED A DEFENCE FORCE IMMEDIATELY UPON THE OCCASION OF GRENADA'S INDEPENDENCE IN 1974, BUT NONE OF THE TRADITIONAL SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE FOR SUCH AN ENDEAVOR, PARTICULARLY THE UK, COULD JUSTIFY SUCH ASSISTANCE IN THE WAKE OF THE 1974 DISTURBANCES THAT SHOWED AN ARBITRARY USE OF EXISTING POLICE POWER. BY THE TIME GARIY GOT THE DEFENCE FORCE LEGISLATION HE WANTED IN OCTOBER 1976, THEREFORE, HE MUST HAVE HAD ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS IN MIND OR ALREADY MADE. IN 77 STATE 016230, A JANUARY 14, 1977 MEETING BETWEEN CHILEAN LT. COLONEL JAMIE GARCIA AND GAIRY QUOTES GAIRY IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY COOPERATION. END COMMENT. ORTIZ

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